

## Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 IO-10

L-02 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 OIC-02 /113 W

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R 251656Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6848

INFO AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WATER COMMISSION EL PASO TX

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 2561

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, SENV, MX

SUBJECT: SECOND BINATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON US/MEXICO BORDER

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS: SEPARATE EPA/SMA MEETING

REF: STATE 019929, MEXICO 0461, 1794

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT SYMPOSIUM SUCCESSFULLY STAGED AT NUEVO LAREDO MARCH 13-14 WITH GOOD REPRESENTATION OF FEDERAL, STATE, MUNICIPAL, UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITIES. PRESS COVERAGE QUITE FAVORABLE. OBSERVERS COMMENT THAT PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OF MEETING HIGHER THAN THAT OF FIRST SYMPOSIUM, EL PASO, SEPT. 1973. SUB-SECRETARIA DE MEJORAMIENTO DEL AMBIENTE (SMA) HAS UNDERTAKEN COMMITMENT TO PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE PROCEEDINGS.

2. OCCASION ALSO SERVED FOR COMPLETELY SEPARATE MEETING OF EPA/SMA REPRESENTATIVES WHO AGREED UPON PROGRAM OF JOINT ACTIVITIES FOR ENSUING PERIOD. EPA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FITZHUGH GREEN WILL SUMMARIZE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED IN LETTER TO UNDERSECRETARY VIZCAINO. EPA REGION VI AND IX ADMINISTRATORS, WHO WERE PRESENT, ARE TO DRAFT THIS TEXT. HDQS WILL REVIEW, CONSULT WITH IBWC

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AND STATE, AND THEN FORWARD TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMIT? END

SUMMARY.

3. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO CONTENTS OF EPA LETTER, FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL REPORT FOR INFO DEPARTMET. 4.1 INVENTORY OF DISCHARGE INTO RIVER (RIVERSIDE DIVERSION DAM) IN EL PASO AREA. GOM SECRETARIAT OF HYDRAULIC RESOURCES ALSO WORKING ON THIS (ELOY URROZ WAS PRESENT).

4.2 PESTICIDES. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE USE OF PESTICIDES AS WELL AS DISPOSAL OF CONTAINERS. NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS RECOGNIZED ON BOTH SIDES BECAUSE BOTH CONTENTS AND CONTAINERS POLLUTE AIR, WATER AND SOIL. REF: EPA OPERATION QUOTE SAFEQUARD UNQUOTE.

4.3 AIR CONTAMINATION PROBLEM IN EL PASO-CIUDAD JUAREZ AREA. EVEN IF FULL COMPLIANCE ON U.S. SIDE ACHIEVED AIR WOULD STILL BE CONTAMINATED BECAUSE OF POLLUTION ON CIUDAD JUAREZ SIDE, AND VICE VERSA. JOINT MONITORING PROPOSED AND CONSIDERED REASIBLE.

4.4 AIR CONTAMINATION FROM MOBILE SOURCES IN SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA AREA: JOINT MONITORING PROPOSED AND CONSIDERED FEASIBLE.

4.5 IMPACT OF TOURISM ON BAJA CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENT. THE PROBLEM, PROGRAM AND PROGRESS TO BE DISCUSSED AT BAJA MEETING IN MAY-JUNE (SEE BELOW ALSO).

4.6 MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER. EPA REPS INFORMED THEIR SMA COUNTERPARTS OF THE RECENT NEW ORLEANS INCIDENT ON QUOTE THE POSSIBLE CANCER CAUSING EFFECT OF CHLORINE UNQUOTE ADVISING THAT INTENSIVE STUDIES NOW UNDER WAY IN FOUR MAJOR CITIES WITH PLANS TO EXPAND THE STUDY TO SOME EIGHTY CITIES ALTOGETHER. SINCE BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS IS ONE OF CITIES ON LIST IT WAS PROPOSED AND AGREED THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR SAMPLES OF DRINKING WATER FROM TWIN CITY MATAMOROS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EPA LABS FOR CHECKING.

4.7 CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR OILSPILLS AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (SEE BELOW ALSO).

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5. WITH REF TO ITEM 4.1 EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT U.S. IBWC COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN CONTEMPLATES MAKING RESULT OF DISCHARGE STUDY ON U.S. SIDE AVAILABLE TO HIS COUNTERPART, ING. DAVID HERRERA JORDAN. BOTH COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED SYMPOSIUM.

6. IN CONNECTION POINT 4.5 ABOVE, JOINT CONCERN OF THE TWO FEDERAL BEYOND THE ANTI-LITTER ASPECT DISCUSSED AT DECEMBER 1973

MEETING, FOR VIZCAINO REPORTED THAT U.S. TOURISTS IN DUNE BUGGIES AND ONE MOTORCYCLES ARE NOW REAMPAGING ACROSS COUNTRY, CHARGING AND DESTROYING CACTUS AND OTHER FRAIL BOTANICAL SPECIMENS, POLLUTION HITHERTO PROTECTED SHORELINE AREAS AND CAUSING OTHER DEPREDATIONS. THE UNDERSECRETARY ENVIGAGES NEED FOR CLEAR DEMARCATION OF AREAS OPEN FOR TRAVEL BY MOTOR VEHICLE AND, CONVERSELY, AREAS WHERE SUCH TRAFFIC NOT PERMITTED; ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAILER PARKS WITH APPROPRIATE COMFORT AND SERVICE FACILITIES AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIED SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AREAS OR CONTAINERS; AND ALL THE OTHER PROVISIONS WHICH MODERN TOURISM HAVE SHOWN TO BE NECESSARY. HE UNDERLINED FACT THAT GOM WANTS U.S. TOURISTS TO VISIT AREA, THAT BY NO MEANS ARE ALL TOURISTS INSENSITIVE TO THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE AND THE NEED TO PRESERVE SAME, THAT NUMBER OF THOSE CAUSING INTERNATIONAL OR UNINTERNATIONAL DEPREDATIONS, BOTH U.S. AND MEXICAN, ARE LIMITED, BUT NUMBER SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT SAFEGUARDING ACTION SOONEST. EPA CONCURRED FULLY, WILL CHECK WITH INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ON RESULTS THEIR RECENT MEETING WITH SMA REPS IN LA PAZ.

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7. WITH FURTHER REFERENCE POINT 4.5 ABOVE, VIZCAINO MURRAY ADVISED THAT GOVERNOR OF NEW STATE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA SOUTH TO BE INSTALLED ON OR ABOUT APRIL 1, 1975; THAT PRESIDENT

ECHEVERRIA MAY ATTEND HISTORICAL EVENT; THAT THE PRESIDENT GREATLY INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THIS FRAGILE DESERT AREA AND HAS CHARGED SMA WITH COORDINATION OF EFFORTS OF SEVERAL FEDERAL AGENCIES WHO HAVE LINE RESPONSIBILITIES THERE E.G., RECURSOS HIDRAULICOS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, NATIONAL PATRIMONY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, GOVERNACION (INTERIOR), AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. VISCAINO, WHO WANTS EPA COLLABORATION IN THIS TOTAL PICTURE, EXTENDED SPECIAL INVITATION TO GREEN AND TO EPA REGION IX ADMINISTRATOR TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTION PLANNING. GREEN OFFERED EPA'S PARTICIPATION QUOTE TO EXTENT SMA CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE UNQUOTE. PLANNING SESSION TENTATIVELY SET FOR MAY-JUNE PERIOD. SMA WILL GIVE EPA FIFTEEN DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE.

8. WITH REFERENCE ITEM 4.7 ABOVE, THERE WAS MUTUAL AGREEMENT AS TO THE NEED FOR SUCH A CONTINGENCY PLAN. EMBASSY SCICOUNS FOLLOWED UP ON THIS AFTER THE EPA/SMA MEETING WITH REAR ADMIRAL LOPEZ LIRA, HEAD OF NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC OPERATIONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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ING. MIGUEL ANGEL GARCIA LARA OF PEMEX, ING. ELOY URROZ OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR HYDRAULIC RESOURCES, AND DR. ENRIQUE SANCHEZ PALOMERA, SECGEN SMA TECHNICAL COUNCIL. ALL FORM PART OF INTERSECRETARIAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT AT NEXT MEETING THAT COMMITTEE THEY WILL RECOMMEND INVITATION FOR QUALIFIED U.S. REP TO MEET WITH THEM AT DATE IN NEAR FUTURE. EMBREP ADVISED THAT U.S. COAST GUARD IS U.S. ACTION AGENCY ON THIS MATTER. ADMIRAL LOPEZ LIRA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ON PHONE WITH COAST GUARD DIRECTOR PREVIOUS MORNING ON ANOTHER MATTER. GARCIA LARA SAID THAT PEMEX ALREADY HAS ITS OWN CONTINGENCY PLAN BUT HE DECLINED PROVIDE COPY SINCE PLAN NOT YET FINALIZED. IT UNDERSTOOD THAT NAVY HAS ALSO ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO DO IN EVENT EMERGENCY. HENCE WAY NOW SEEMS CLEAR FOR JOINT US/MEXICO ACTION.

9. DATA BANK: SANCHEZ PALOMERA SPOKE OF THE NEW COMPUTERIZED DATA CENTER SET UP RECENTLY BY PEMEX WHICH OTHER GOM AGENCIES INCLUDING SMA ALSO USING. TIE-IN WITH EPA DESIRED AND BEING EXPLORED. EPA IS NOW FOCAL POINT FOR THE U.S. IN THE UN SYSTEM AND SMA IS THE FOCAL POINT FOR MEXICO IN THAT SYSTEM.

10. IT WAS ALSO AGREED: LET THE UNIVERSITIES AND PAHO GO AHEAD WITH THIRD SYMPOSIUM BECAUSE THE TWO ALREADY HELD HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL BUT BOTH FEDERAL AGENCIES TO STAY CLEAR AND HOLD THEIR OWN MEETINGS SEPARATELY AT TIME AND PLACE THEY CONSIDER DESIRABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND IF UNIVERSITY AND PAHO WANT THE AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE, THEN EPA AND SMA WOULD ORGANIZE AND CONDUCT. THE THIRD SYMPOSIUM MIGHT WELL BE HELD IN THE SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA AREA IN MID-1976.

11. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE EPA/SMA MEETING WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND CORDIAL. EPA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY SEEING SO MUCH ACCOMPLISHED IN SUCH SHORT TIME. IT OBVIOUS EXCELLENT RELATIONS EXIST BETWEEN TWO AGENCIES AND BOTH IMBUE WITH DESIRE ADVANCE TOGETHER IN ATTACKING PROBLEMS HITHERTO IDENTIFIED. GOM CENTRALIZATION OF AUTHORITY IN MEXICO CITY AND EPA DECENTRALIZATION TO REGIONS APPEARS OFFER NO OBSTACLE. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF IBWC CLEARLY RECOGNIZED BY BOTH PARTIES AND ITS ACTIVE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION WARMLY WELCOMED.

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12. RE PARA 7 ABOVE WITH CONCERNED WITH BAJA CALIFORNIA; DEPT. OF INTERIOR HAS CLEAR-CUT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PROTECTION OF THE BAJA ENVIRONMENT. OES/ENP MAY WISH ACCORDINGLY TO GIVE EMBASSY NET RESULTS OF INTERIOR SMA RECENT MEETING (PARA 6 ABOVE) AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR APPROPRIATE FOLLOWUP.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** TECH, SENV, MX, US  
**To:** STATE  
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